In response to the Examiner's rejection of the drawings under 35 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), Applicant submits herewith a corrected drawing sheet including Figs. 20, 21 and 22, which has been corrected by adding the cross hatching of the cross-sections illustrated in Figs. 21 and 22, which was omitted from the drawings when the application was filed. Applicant submits that with the correction of the drawings, Figs. 20-22 illustrate more clearly the section taken transversely across a flitch table without a modular assembly in Fig. 21, and the sections of such a flitch table with a modular assembly in Fig. 22.

The specification has also been amended at page 26, lines 19 and 24, to correct two transcription errors. With the corrected drawings and the description of the specification from page 26, line 12, through page 28, line 9, the disclosure will clearly provide one skilled in the art a clear comprehension of the physical relationships of the coupling assembly and the flitch table.

For example, Fig. 22 illustrates in cross-section the table segment 282 engaged within the flitch table 286 by the coupling means 284, which comprises tongue-and-groove engagement of the modular assembly 280 with the flitch table 286, and the specification as amended above states,

> "In particular, a modular assembly 280 includes a table segment 282 and means 284 for coupling the assembly to the flitch table 286. The assembly 280 includes a mounting surface 288, formed to include pin dog receiving apertures 290 and pusher pin receiving slots 232 and a back surface 294 formed to include a pusher bar receiving channel 228."
>
> "As shown in Figs. 22, the means 284 for coupling the modular assembly 280 to the table 286 includes a tongue 296 formed on the assembly 280 in a complementary groove 298 sized and configured to receive the tongue 296. The tongue-and-groove arrangement permits its easy installation and removal of the modular assembly 280"
>
> *****
>
> "When the flitch is mounted, the assembly 280, with the mounted flitch, is installed in table 286 by aligning the tongue 296 with the groove 298 and sliding the assembly 280 into position on the table 286. The modular assembly 280 can be retained on the flitch table 286 by friction fit between the tongue 296 and groove 298 or by retaining pins (not shown) or by any suitable fastening or retaining mechanism. When the assembly 280 is positioned, the flitch is sliced in a conventional manner. As the flitch is being sliced, however, a second flitch is simultaneously being mounted on a second modular assembly 280 so that the second flitch will be ready for slicing when all the veneer has been sliced from the first flitch."

Page 26, line 14-page 27, line 15.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-17 contain allowable subject matter and will be allowed if rewritten and amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and that claims 33-38 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that as a result of the amendments submitted in this response, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that this application be allowed.

A sheet showing the amendments to the specification and claims is attached hereto. Claims 14-17 and 34-37 are shown as amended to confirm the correction of their dependency in view of the renumbering discussed in the Office Action mailed March 27, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 20-22 and insert therefore:

Fig. 22 [is a partial section view of the flitch table of Figs. 16-17 illustrating a modular assembly for holding a flitch;] is a partial cross-sectional view taken transversely of a flitch table of Fig. 16-17 for illustrating a modular assembly for holding a flitch and its engagement with the flitch table;

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 26, at line 12 and insert therefor:

The present invention, as illustrated in Fig. 22, overcomes the changeover problem by modularizing the flitch retaining apparatus. In particular, a modular assembly 280 includes a table segment 282 and means 284 for coupling the assembly 280 to a flitch table 286. The assembly 280 includes a mounting surface 288, formed to include pin dog-receiving apertures 290 and pusher pin receiving slots [282] 232, and a back surface 294 formed to include a pusher bar-receiving channel 228.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 26, at line 22 and insert therefor:

As shown in Fig. 22, the means 284 for coupling the modular assembly 280 to the table 286 includes a tongue 296 formed on the assembly 280 [and] in a complementary groove 298 sized and configured to receive the tongue 296. The tongue and groove arrangement permits easy installation and removal of the modular assembly 280. Although a tongue and groove arrangement is shown, it will be appreciated that other mechanisms, such as fasteners and retainers, can be used to couple the modular assembly to the table.

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 13-17 as follows:

13. (Twice Amended) A method of retaining a flitch on a flitch table for cutting veneer from the flitch, the flitch table having a plurality of pin dogs the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flitch having a first plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of pin digs, the peripheries of said holes forming a plurality of engagement surfaces;

positioning the pin dogs in the first plurality of holes; and

moving the flitch and the plurality of pin dogs into engagement to retain the flitch on the flitch table.

14. (Twice Amended) The method of claim [14] 13 further comprising providing a second plurality of holes in the flitch, and providing a plurality of pusher pins, said second plurality of holes being positioned for receiving the plurality of pusher pins.

15. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 14 wherein the moving step further includes the step of providing means for moving the pusher pins to move the flitch along a longitudinal axis of the flitch into engagement with the stationary dogs.

16. (Amended) The method of claim [14] 13 further including the step of providing a modular assembly for positioning the plurality of [stationary] pin dogs and for moving the flitch into engagement with the dogs to mount the flitch on the modular assembly, the modular assembly being removably received by the flitch table.

17. (Amended) The method of claim [17] 16 wherein the flitch table includes means for retaining the modular assembly in position for slicing veneer from the flitch mounted on the modular assembly.

34. (Amended) The method of claim [34] 33 wherein the plurality of dogs have projecting surfaces and their relative movement with respect to the flitch engages the flitch.

35. (Amended) The method of claim [35] 34 wherein the flitch is moved for engagement with the plurality of dogs.

36. (Amended) The method of claim [35] 34 wherein the flitch is moved longitudinally along its central axis.

37. (Amended) The method of claim [35] 34 wherein the staylog is provided with a further plurality of dogs, and the flitch is provided with a further plurality of holes positioned to receive the further plurality of dogs, and the further plurality of dogs are moved to engage the flitch and the first plurality of dogs.